"The Heart" Dignity/Sacramento

COMMITTED TO CHRIST and the GAY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

VOL. 14, No. 6

TELEPHONE: (916) 441-0427

JULY 1989

Lambda Community Center Library Sacramento, CA

President's Report:

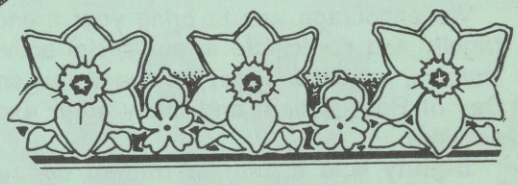
The Lambda Freedom Fair on Saturday the 17th was a bang-up success and the Dignity tables were well manned. We were able to disseminate quite a bit of information and met a lot of new friends. This year's fair was almost double the size of previous years. Our large banner didn't show up but people found us anyway. Congratulations to Rev. Jerry Sloan and all his staff for making Sacramento's Freedom Fair a wondrous and enjoyable event. Having continuous entertainment throughout the day helped a great deal!

Our June meeting and scheduled mass conflicted with the Centennial Celebration at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament downtown to which almost every priest attended our Bishop, so we had an enjoyable prayer service instead, and Communion offered by our own Felipe.

Now that music portion was something else, and gave rise to renewed appreciation to Ivan and Dave; as was mentioned, some of us haven't read music since grade school.

Remember
Starting Time in JULY for
Dignity/Sacramento is
3:00 p. m. on Sunday,
July 9, 1989

For next month's mass on July 9 we hope to have Father Jim Rude, who is always a very special celebrant; and tentatively we will have an old fashioned Ice Cream and Watermelon Social afterwards — it's sure to be hot!



ICE CREAM AND WATERMELON SOCIAL

Following the July Mass on the second Sunday of July (the 9th) we will have an Old Fashioned Ice Cream and Watermelon Social. Wear something washable and let the juices flow! Please call Mike, Ron, Felipe or Teddy if you can donate some ice-cold watermelon, or leave your name on the Dignity phone: 441-0427.

CONTESTS

Just before the Fourth of July fireworks heat up the skies in Sacramento, a lot of hot bodies from men in California and Nevada will heat up

(Continued on Page 3)

DIGNITY IS...

An organization of gay and lesbian Catholics, and other concerned individuals who believe that through baptism we all share in the death and resurrection of Christ, and have an inherent dignity which should be preserved and strengthened through the sacramental life of the Church, in which we have a right to participate.

Dignity provides a monthly Mass at St. Francis Church, 26th and K Sts., on the second Sunday, 3 pm (April - October, Daylight Savings Time) or at 2 pm (November - March during Standard Time) or A meeting is held in the Social Hall afterwards, with either a pot-luck or a guest speaker.

These meetings are open to all, young and old, men and women—we welcome all concerned people, clergy and laity, Catholic and non-Catholic, gay and non-gay, who seek a more constructive relationship between the Church and lesbian/gay people.

We encourage you to bring your friends to **Dignity** and participate in our social activities, liturgies, educational get-togethers, our annual Day of Recollection, and many other exciting activities.

Dignity is a forum for human concerns, emphasizing the total being, not just sexuality.

Dignity is a seeking for greater self-knowledge, an affirmation of one's sexual orientation in faith, and a personal ministry.

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DIGNITY is committed to:
Spiritual Development -- Education -- Social Involvement -- Feminist Issue -- Social Events.

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EDITOR NEEDED

This month's Heart is being put together by Ron and Mike. Ron has just returned from a long business trip and has his hands full, as does Mike, and help is sorely needed to edit, assemble and get the Heart printed each month. Please see any officer if you can give a little time once a month.

OFFICERS OF DIGNITY / Sacramento

President .....Mike G.
Vice-President .....Ted E.
Secretary .....(Vacant)
Treasurer .....Felipe V.

Regional Representatives:

Felipe V.
Chris W.
Ron Drum

Chaplains:

Fr. Barry Brunsman, O.F.M.....443-8084
Fr. Jim

Editors:

Mike and Ron 927-6969

Articles and notices for publication are REQUESTED to be in by the 15th of the month. Mail to:

DIGNITY/Sacramento
P. O. Box 161765
Sacramento, CA 95816

Old Fashioned Ice Cream and Watermelon Social After Mass July 9th!

Distribution Places for "The Heart":

We are pleased to announce the following businesses offering ***"The Heart"*** on the 1st of each month. Please support them in your outings.

Bo Jangles/Scandles - 7042 Folsom Bl.... 383-9882
Buffalo Club - 19 & S..... 442-1087
Faces - 2000 K St..... 448-7798
Joseph's Town & Country - 2062 Auburn Bl..... 649-9248
Lambda Center - 20 & L Streets..... 442-0185
Info: 447-5755
Lioness Books, 2224 J St. 442-4657
MCC, 2741- 34th St. (at B'dwy)..... 454-4762
Western, 20th & K St. 443-9831
Wreck Room, 2513 Broadway..... 456-1181

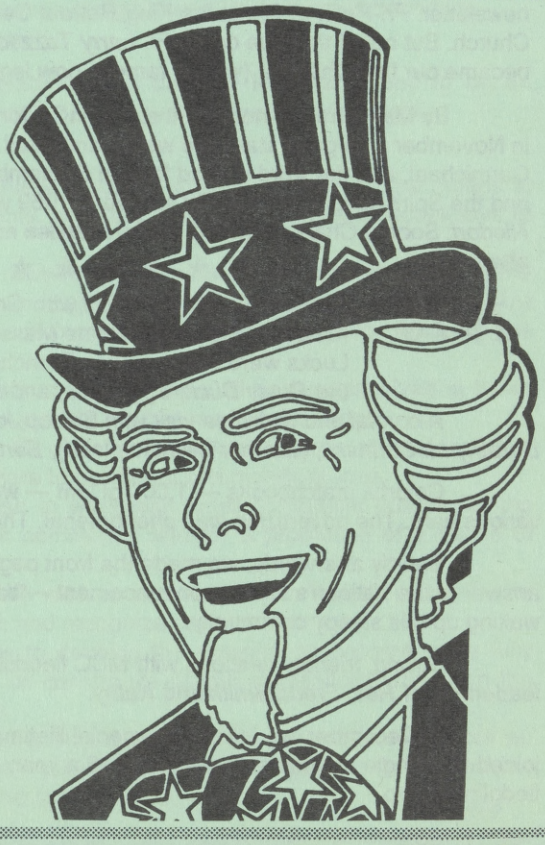
20th Anniversary of DIGNITY/U.S.A. Coming Up!

Don't be left out and wish you ***would have*** been there!
Where? San Francisco
When? Labor Day Weekend
Come, help us celebrate!
It will be an unforgettable weekend. Registrations still being accepted. Limit: 1,000

the stage. On July 1st the Official Mr. Gay West All-American contest will take place saluting talented and good-looking men. The winner will represent this area for the first time in the 1989-1990 Mr. Gay All-American Contest. The current Mr. Gay All-American, Patrick Boyd, will also make history as he arrives in California for the first time. Boyd, the 23-year old West Virginian, won his title last July in Baltimore. He will be entertaining here with song and dance numbers from Broadway.

The final pageant of the summer will be held August 5 as California's most talented and beautiful lesbians take place on center stage of the Ms. California Lady-of-the-Year Pageant. The capacity crowd will see the first-ever and to be annual event here in Sacramento of this top pageant. The winner of the pageant will represent California in the National Pageant.

For additional information about these events call or write Doug Christoff at 1008 10th St., Suite 364, Sacramento CA 95814 (448-8656.



"Looking Back To Beginnings . . ."

by Ron Drum

(This past JUNE, DIGNITY/Sacramento celebrated its 14th Anniversary. I thought perhaps some of you might recall the early days, and others wondering how we came to be — read and enjoy.)

★ ★

1975 *IN THE BEGINNING...*there was the trinity of *Bert Pratt, Bob Hart,* and myself, enthusiastic to start on a new venture...why not build a community of gay men and women right here in River City, modeled after a national group we heard of headquartered in Boston, and begin a Chapter called **DIGNITY/Sacramento**? We were encouraged by the Chapter in San Francisco and thought if the Holy Spirit guided us and *wanted* this, it would happen.

The year was **1975.** On a dark and windy night, **April 1st,** (no foolin'), there were eight brave souls meeting in the parlor of St. Francis Church. I had talked to *Father John Vaughn, OFM,* the pastor, and he said, "Let's try it." So the 2nd Sunday of each month was set aside for **DIGNITY** to have Mass in the side chapel at 3 p.m. followed by a social and meeting in the hall.

Posters were made, lots of phone calls, and we were off and running. Twelve members attended that first official meeting on May 11th, and by June 12th, we had elections: *Bert Pratt* was named Secretary; *Mike Grams,* Treasurer; and I was elected President.

We opened a bank account and a postoffice box and Bert suggested **"The Heart"** as our official newsletter. *Fr. Peter* at Christ the King Retreat Center was contacted as was *Fr. Carroll Laubacher* at St. Ignatius Church. But out of the blue came *Fr. Larry Tozzeo, OFM,* from New York and in his beguiling and charming way became our first Chaplain (whose fame is now legendary).

By May 23rd our non-profit status inCalifornia was approved, and our federal tax exempt status followed in November ... a good start! We were nominated for a **Toby Award** as the best organization at *Fay's* in Carmichael, and the word spread fast. In September, I was on my way to Boston for the National Convention, and the Spirit caught fire. **Dignity** started in 1969 when a small rap group formed in **San Diego** with *Fr. Patrick Niedorf.* Soon a Chapter formed in **Los Angeles** and the first convention was held in Hollywood shortly afterwards.

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1976 saw our elections in April with *Greg Isenhart* as Secretary; *Bert* as Treasurer and I was reelected President. Home Masses almost every month began in earnest and our monthly Pot Lucks were very popular. Brunches attracted up to 30 members and friends at such places as the *Rusty Duck, Egg Crate,* and *Red Barron* at the Executive Airport.

A cordial and welcome visit with Bishop John Cummins took place in Davis with *Fr. Larry, Sister Dorothy McCormack,* (another new chaplain!), *Bert, Greg,* and myself — a major achievement for **Dignity.**

Colorful matchbooks — 1,000 of 'em — were purchased from *Randy G.* of Stockton and set out at various bars. The advertizing was phenomenal. They even showed up on the nude beach in Auburn!

Shortly afterwards, we made the front page news in the *Sacramento Union,* saying **Dignity** had an answer to the Vatican's latest pronouncement -- "baloney!" Ron and *Fr. Larry* had a lengthy interview published, waking up this sleepy community.

Strong, friendly relations with MCC flourished, with an interchange of members, thanks to the dynamic leadership of *Rev. Freda Smith* and *Kathy.*

In December, we initiated a special lifetime membership offer for $100 *Charles Yunker, Joe Flynn* and I joined up. Single membership was still $15 a year, and couples were $25. We now had 38 members in our fledgling group.

Dignity's Statement of Position and Purpose

A. We believe that gay and lesbian Catholics are members of Christ's mystical body, numbered among the people of God. We have an inherent dignity because God created us, Christ died for us, and the Holy Spirit sanctified us in Baptism, making us His Temple, and the channel through which the love of God might become visible. Because of this, it is our right, our privilege, and our duty to live the sacramental life of the church, so that we might become more powerful instruments of God's love working among all people.

B. We believe that gay men and lesbian women can express their sexuality in a manner that is consonant with Christ's teaching. We believe that all sexuality should be exercised in an ethically responsible and unselfish way.

C. As members of DIGNITY, we wish to promote the cause of the gay and lesbian community. To do this, we must accept our responsibility to the Church, to Society, and to the individual gay and lesbian Catholic.

1. **To the Church**
   — to work for the development of its sexual theology and for the acceptance of gay men and lesbian women as full and equal members of the one Christ.
2. **To Society**
   — to work for justice and social acceptance through education and legal reform.
3. **To Individual Gay Men and Lesbian Women**
   — to reinforce their self-acceptance and their sense of dignity and to aid them in becoming more active members of the Church and society.

D. DIGNITY is organized to unite all gay and lesbian Catholics, to develop leadership and to be an instrument through which the gay and lesbian Catholic may be heard by the Church and society.

There are five areas of concern:

1. **Spiritual Development:** We shall strive to achieve Christian maturity through all the means at our disposal, especially the Mass, the sacraments, scripture, personal prayer and active love of neighbor.
2. **Education:** We wish to inform ourselves in all matters of faith as well as in all that concerns the gay and lesbian community so that we may develop the maturity of outlook needed to live fulfilling lives in which sexuality and spirituality are integrated, and to prepare us for service in the gay and lesbian community.
3. **Social Involvement:** As Catholics and members of society, we shall become involved in those actions that bring the love of Christ to others and provide the bases of social reform.
   a. Toward Individuals... We wish to lead a life of service to others, hoping to render visible the love of Christ and contributing our share to building a community of love.
   b. With gay and lesbian groups... We wish to work with other homophile groups for the cause of justice to the gay and lesbian community and for a promotion of a sense of solidarity.
   c. With Religious and Secular Groups... We wish to work with them that they may better understand gay men and lesbian women and recognize present injustices.
4. **Feminist Issues:** We shall dedicate ourselves to develop the potential to become more fully human; and to work toward the eradication of all constraints on our personhood based on the ascribed social roles of women and well as men.
5. **Social Events:** Activities of a social and recreational nature will be provided to promote an atmosphere where friendships can develop and mature, and where the gay man's and lesbian woman's sense of acceptance and dignity may be strengthened.

July 1989

(Place me on your Frig., in Den - etc.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Would you like to place your **AD** here and reach thousands of readers? You will be amazed with the **FAST RESULTS** you'll get! *Thanks for giving your "Heart" a needed transfusion!* **We couldn't exist without good friends like Y O U !** **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 **DIGNITY MEETS 3:00 p.m. St Francis Church 26 & K Sts. SOCIAL AT 3 pm**	10	11	12	13	14	15 **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN NEXT ISSUE OF "The Heart" 927-6969**
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 **Board Meeting at Mike's All Welcome ! 7:30 p.m. Call 371-2876 to confirm date.**	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

CONDOM STUDY FINDS WIDE DIFFERENCES AMONG BRANDS

A preliminary report from a federally funded study at UCLA has reported dramatic differences in 31 condom brands tested for their ability to protect against leakage of the HIV virus.

The preliminary rankings from the tests show at least eight brands as excellent at protecting against the AIDS virus, while at least five were of questionable effectiveness.

Preliminary results on a scale of 0 to 100, based on safety and effectiveness (From the Los Angeles Times, July 29, 1988).

CONDOM RELIABILITY

Score	Brand
98.9	Mentor
91.3	Ramses Non-Lube
91.3	Ramses Sensitol
85.2	Gold Circle Coin
83.7	Gold Circle
83.7	Sheik Elite
81.7	Durex Nuform
80.2	Pleaser
78.7	Ramses Extra
77.3	Embrace Her
76.6	Lifestyles Stimula
75.3	Ramses Nuform
74.8	Excita Extra
71.4	Trojan-Enz
71.1	Trojan-Enz Lubricated
69.9	Trojan Plus
68.1	Prime
66.8	Lifestyles Nuda Plus
64.1	Arouse
62.7	Tahiti
60.9	Lifestyles Conture
60.6	Lifestyles Nuda
57.7	Trojan Ribbed Natural
21.3	Contracept Plus

An Invitation . . .

❤ ❤ ❤ *to join DIGNITY/Sacramento*

DIGNITY/U.S.A. will soon be celebrating 20 years of continued service to the Gay and Lesbian community of the United States, with a National Convention in San Francisco on Labor Day Weekend, 1989!

DIGNITY/Sacramento has been active for over 14 years, having started in 1975, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of California as a non-profit religious organization. Find out what makes us tick. We offer a variety of activities:

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT FEMINIST ISSUES SOCIAL EVENTS

Join us each month (2nd Sunday at 3 p.m.) for Liturgy — St. Francis Church, 26th and K Streets. Meet your friends and keep up with current events. Your membership includes the National Publication from Washington, D.C. All contributions are tax deductible. (Membership will not be denied for lack of funds.)

Clip and Mail to: DIGNITY/Sacramento, P.O. Box 161765, Sacramento CA 95816

☐ REGULAR MEMBERSHIP	$25 per year
☐ COUPLES MEMBERSHIP	$45 per year
☐ SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP	$75 per year
☐ LOW INCOME MEMBERSHIP	$18 per year
☐ **Subscription to "The Heart"**	$ 3 per year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ DATE _____

(All Information Kept Strictly Confidential)

From: ❤ ❤ ❤

P. O. Box 161765
Sacramento, CA 95816

(ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED)

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